

HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 19, 2018

MINUTES

Attendance: Chuck Wilson, Dave Barnhart, Lauren Bricker, Gina Collins, Eleanor Colombo, Jim Ferguson, Meiko Inaba, Elissa Kido, Steve Spiller, Nancy Takano, Dwight Tate, Kathy Wright, Michiko Yoshimura, Councilmember Mike Gardner

Conference Call-ins: Naomi Harada, Rose Monge

City Staff: Robyn Peterson, Brenda Focht

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Chuck Wilson.
2. Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2017.  
Committee Member Wright made the motion:  
To approve the Harada House Project Committee Minutes for the December 15, 2017 meeting.  
Committee Member Councilmember Gardner seconded the motion.  
The motion passed unanimously.
3. Presentation by Museum Director Robyn G. Peterson  
Chairman Wilson introduced Director Peterson. He then explained the purpose of the Harada House Project Committee, which is to provide a public venue for those interested in the preservation of the National Historic Landmark Harada House and the composition of the Committee.  
  
Director Peterson gave a presentation in which she said:  
(a) Riverside Metropolitan Museum (RMM) has potential. She does not have a timetable to address issues but hopes to move ahead;  
(b) She is learning the history of the Museum and all its sites;  
(c) She is encouraged by City Personnel's response to the RMM;  
(d) She is learning about Harada House and its expectations.
4. General Discussion of the CalPoly Project Boards:  
(a) Easy flow between Harada and Robinson Houses;  
(b) Independent structure for site caretaker behind Robinson House;  
(c) Public presence at site during restoration;  
(d) What required to make Robinson House useable; contact Carl Carey to get assessment and possible costs.
5. Other Issues:  
(a) Milestone Letter

Send letter to original Robinson House donors and Harada house donors and family providing an update on National Historic Landmark Harada House preservation.

(b) State Landmark

Investigate status of Harada House as a State of California Landmark

Following discussion Committee Member Bricker made the motion:

Riverside Metropolitan Museum investigate the possibility of naming Harada House as a California State Landmark.

Committee Member Spiller seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

(c) Donor Recognition

Event for donor update and recognition.

Next meeting: Friday, February 16, 2018 at 10:00am in Museum Conference room

Prepared by:

Brenda Buller Focht, Ph. D.

Museum Curator

## **HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 16, 2018**

Riverside Metropolitan Museum  
3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

### **MINUTES**

#### **Committee Members Present**

Lauren Bricker  
Eleanor Colombo  
Jim Ferguson  
Councilmember Mike Gardner  
Naomi Harada (by phone)  
Mary Hughes  
Meiko Inaba  
Carol McDoniel  
Rose Monge  
Dwight Tate  
Chuck Wilson  
Michiko Yoshimura

#### **Committee Members Absent**

Dave Barnhart  
Larry Burgess  
Todd Carpenter  
Gina Collins  
Wayne Donaldson  
Erin Gettis  
Peyton Hall  
Anthea Hartig  
Lane Hirabayashi  
Hillary Jenks  
Daniel Kido  
Elissa Kido  
Knox Mellon  
Yolanda Moses  
Sarah Mundy  
Irene Ogata  
Mark Rawitsch  
Bonnie Small  
Steven Spiller  
Nancy Takano  
Kathy Wright

#### **City Staff Present**

Brenda Focht  
Robyn Peterson

#### **Guest Present**

Allison Campbell

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chuck Wilson at 10:00 a.m. Guest Allison Campbell was introduced.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes for the meeting held on January 19, 2018, were approved with one abstention.

Motion: Committee Member Tate  
Second: Committee Member Bricker  
Abstention: Committee Member Hughes

### **ROBINSON HOUSE**

Chairman Wilson described his tour of the house and need for removal of walls and inclusion of ADA-compliant restroom. Director Peterson introduced a current proposal underway with the City to use low-income housing funding for the renovation of Robinson House. The renovation plans will include the development of living and training spaces. In order to be useful when the house is used as the interpretive center for Harada House, the space closest to the Harada House would become the training space; the other space would be renovated to provide housing for a low-income client. Emilio Ramirez, Office of Homeless Services, will make a presentation to the Metropolitan Museum Board at its meeting on March 14, 2018.

### **HARADA HOUSE PROGRAMMING**

During discussion, Committee members noted the following:

- (a) Need for accessibility via convenient parking or other creative solutions
  - (i) Purchase adjacent land for parking;
  - (ii) Proposed apartment complex to include extra parking;
  - (iii) Development of new shared downtown parking structure;

- (iv) Incorporate into the downtown walking tour.
- (b) Dependent on Robinson House site economic stability:
  - (i) Incorporation of Robinson House in the telling of Harada House story;
  - (ii) Master's Degree Report by Committee Member McDoniel is a resource;
  - (iii) Benchmark to other national sites like the Tenement Museum in New York City;
  - (iv) Use of grounds and garages for activities, such as oral history collecting.

The Committee passed a recommendation that eventual interpretation include full public access to the Harada House second floor.

Motion: Committee Member Inaba  
Second: Committee Member Tate  
Opposed: Committee Member Bricker

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Committee membership might be expanded to those with an interest in the Robinson House site development.

### **DONOR RECOGNITION**

Director Peterson reported that the long-delayed donor recognition panel for installation on the Harada/Robinson House site is in preparation. A Harada House preservation progress letter will be sent to donors when installation of the panel is imminent.

### **STATE LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

After discussion, Committee members determined to investigate and seek a State Landmark designation for the National Historic Landmark Harada House. Staff will contact the California State Office of Historic Preservation. The findings will be presented at a future Harada House Project Committee Meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, April 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Museum Conference room

Prepared by:  
Brenda Buller Focht, Ph. D.  
Museum Curator

**HARADA HOUSE PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

**March 16, 2018**

Riverside Metropolitan Museum  
3580 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

**Committee Members Present**

Dave Barnhart  
Gina Collins  
Eleanor Colombo  
Jim Ferguson  
Councilmember Mike Gardner  
Naomi Harada (by phone)  
Anthea Hartig (by phone)  
Mary Hughes  
Meiko Inaba  
Carol McDoniel  
Rose Monge  
Dwight Tate  
Chuck Wilson  
Kathy Wright  
Michiko Yoshimura

**City Staff Present**

Toni Kinsman

**Committee Members Absent**

Lauren Bricker  
Larry Burgess  
Todd Carpenter  
Wayne Donaldson  
Erin Gettis  
Peyton Hall  
Lane Hirabayashi  
Hillary Jenks  
Daniel Kido  
Elissa Kido  
Knox Mellon  
Yolanda Moses  
Sarah Mundy  
Irene Ogata  
Mark Rawitsch  
Bonnie Small  
Steven Spiller  
Nancy Takano

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Wilson at 10:02 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes for the meeting held on February 16, 2018 were approved.

Motion: Committee Member Tate

Second: Committee Member Hughes

Ayes: All

**STATE LANDMARK DESIGNATION UPDATE**

Committee Member Bricker was not in attendance. This agenda item has been moved to the April 2018 meeting.

**ROBINSON HOUSE UPDATE**

At the March 14, 2018 Museum Board meeting, a report for the renovation and reuse plan for the Robinson House was reviewed and approved.

The Metropolitan Museum Board:

1. Approved the renovation and reuse concept for the Robinson House, a Museum-owned property located at 3342 Lemon Street in Downtown Riverside; 2. Supported the Riverside Metropolitan Museum's funding application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds for the renovation of the Robinson House; and 3. Authorized the issuance of a Request for Proposals for the renovation of the Robinson House if CDBG funds are successfully awarded.

## **MUSEUM BOARD REPORT**

Museum Board Chair Hughes reported that in addition to the above item on the CDBG grant for reuse of the Robinson House, the Museum Board does not yet have an updated Harada House Structural Assessment Report from Structural Focus, LLC.

## **DONOR RECOGNITION**

No further action taken. Museum staff is in process of identifying the Founding Donors and designing the recognition signage. Committee Member Barnhart stated that he would be open to temporary signage or waiting until project completion for permanent signage.

A motion was made to have Museum staff and Committee Chair Wilson contact the Founding Donors (donations over \$10,000) via a written letter on the status of the Robinson House project and goals met since their original donation.

Motion: Committee Member Wright

Second: Committee Member Wilson

Ayes: All

Committee Members discussed having Founding Donors receive updates via email with project information. Contact information for the mailing list is being updated.

## **HARADA HOUSE PROGRESS**

A motion was made to set a timeline of 60 days for Museum staff to initiate the RFQ / RFP process to secure an Architect of Record for the Harada House project.

Motion: Committee Member Barnhart

Second: Committee Member Ferguson

Ayes: All

Councilman Gardner reported that he recently toured with the Building Services Project Manager and the Museum Director the Harada and Robinson Sites. He viewed the exteriors and interiors of the two structures. Councilman Gardner observed that temporary siding has been installed at the Harada House. A finding of the Harada House structural assessment is that the condition of the interior plaster walls requires evaluation. This item has not come to City Council for discussion.

Committee Member Hartig suggested that the Museum apply for funds from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (California Civil Liberties [CCL] Program), administered by the California State Library. The CCL grant's purpose is to sponsor public educational activities and develop educational materials to ensure that the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered so that the causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood. The application deadline is April 20, 2018.

A motion was made for Museum staff to work with Committee Member Hartig and submit the application by April 20, 2018.

Motion: Committee Member Hartig

Second: Committee Member Harada

Ayes: All

## **HARADA HOUSE FOUNDATION**

The Harada House Foundation received a letter of authorization from the IRS. It can now accept donations. The Harada House Foundation will open a bank account by March 31, 2018 and secure a Post Office Box.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Committee Chair Wilson asked if Committee Members wanted to continue the monthly meetings or move to quarterly meetings. Committee consensus was to maintain the current schedule.

Committee Chair Wilson will draft a Harada House Project Committee Status Report for review by the Harada House Project Committee at its April 2018 meeting. This Report upon Committee review and approval will be presented to the Museum Board.

Committee Member Barnhart inquired about any fundraising programs the Harada House Foundation is sponsoring. Committee Chair Wilson will determine the pockets of funding and status for Harada House funds held by the City and Riverside Museum Associates.

Committee Member Wright inquired of the outcome of Assistant City Manager Nguyen's attendance at the Asian Pacific American Lawyers of the Inland Empire Meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

*The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Friday, April 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the Museum Conference room.*

Prepared by:

Toni Kinsman, Museum Senior Office Specialist

Reviewed by:

Dr. Brenda Focht, Museum Curator